

facts continue the use of these poisons which at least must undoubtedly leave their impression on the delicate organisms of infants and induce tendencies which may develop into the evil habit of drug addiction.

The bulletin contains a list with a photograph of the "original packages" of some of the soft drinks containing caffeine and cola leaf extracts, to which it is not uncommon to find persons addicted. It also mentions some of the harmful nostrums advertised as cures for asthma, catarrh, cold, coughs, consumption, epilepsy, and the tobacco habit, and states that some physicians in their prescriptions in treating these diseases and in attempting to cure the "drug habit" itself, often prescribed the very remedies that have produced the conditions which it is proposed to relieve.

This bulletin can be secured by writing to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., to any Senator, Representative, or Delegate in Congress, or it can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at five cents per copy.

NOSTRUMS IN A NEW GUISE.

Some time ago an advertisement of an alleged mineral water, or rheumatism water, was sent to the Journal, and in the absence of the editor it was inserted for one issue. The statements appeared to be a little peculiar, so the matter was referred to a chemist of national reputation for his opinion. It should have been published long ago, but the letter got mislaid. In part he wrote as follows:

"I have read the advertisement of the so-called mineral water which appeared in your Journal, and I think that it is the 'limit.' It is, of course, not a mineral water at all, but instead a rank nostrum. The claims as to its curative value are extreme. The statement of composition is intended, evidently, to hide its real nature. The first substance mentioned, 'diaethylendiamin,' is the chemical name for 'piperazine.' With the second substance mentioned I am not familiar, but should not be surprised if they are trying to refer to 'phenacetin' in such a way that physicians shall not understand them. Chemically, 'phenacetin' may be called 'anido-acet-para-phenetidin,' and it is quite possible that they are trying to refer to this in a disguising way. What 'phonetidium' is, I don't know.

"This product is a good illustration of a general tendency in patent and proprietary medicines. During recent years, patent medicines have come into disrepute with the public—largely, I think, through the exposures in Collier's Weekly. As the result of this, 'cargon' and its thousand or more imitations have been an immense success. 'Cargon,' as you know, is claimed not to be a patent medicine, but instead a 'simple remedy.'

"As the public is becoming suspicious of patent medicines, so the physicians have come to distrust the proprietary remedy; and, as a result of this, manufacturers are no longer putting up typical proprietaries, but instead are selling so-called ethical pharmaceutical preparations which they try to make the physicians believe are not subject to the criticisms which have been made against the proprietary nostrums. Your 'mineral water' is an example. Physicians would hesitate to use a solution of piperazine and something else—but in the guise of a mineral water they are liable to consider it all right.

"The rheumatism water is evidently a sister of Lehn & Fink's piperazine water, referred to by Solman in his article on the 'Aims of the Council' (see J. A. M. A., Feb. 29, 1908, page 704)."

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS EXAMINATIONS.

The Surgeon General of the Army announces that the first of the preliminary examinations for the appointment of first lieutenants in the Army Medical Corps for the year 1911 will be held on January 16, 1911, at points to be hereafter designated.

Full information concerning the examination can be procured upon application to the "Surgeon General, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C." The essential requirements to securing an invitation are that the applicant shall be a citizen of the United States, shall be between twenty-two and thirty years of age, a graduate of a medical school legally authorized to confer the degree of doctor of medicine, shall be of good moral character and habits, and shall have had at least one year's hospital training or its equivalent in practice after graduation. The examinations will be held concurrently throughout the country at points where boards can be convened. Due consideration will be given to localities from which applications are received, in order to lessen the traveling expenses of applicants as much as possible.

The examination in subjects of general education (mathematics, geography, history, general literature, and Latin) may be omitted in the case of applicants holding diplomas from reputable literary or scientific colleges, normal schools or high schools, or graduates of medical schools which require an entrance examination satisfactory to the faculty of the Army Medical School.

In order to perfect all necessary arrangements for the examination, applications must be complete and in possession of the Adjutant General on or before January 2, 1911. Early attention is therefore enjoined upon all intending applicants. There are at present seventy-six vacancies in the Medical Corps of the Army.

NEW MEMBERS.

McCoy, A. D. S., Pasadena.
Hromadka, A. B., Ocean Park.
Loomis, M. L., Venice, Cal.
Levengood, W. H., Ocean Park.
Smith, Wm. S., Ocean Park.
Thomas, Wm. S., Ocean Park.
Schoff, C. E., San Francisco.
Null, J. G., San Francisco.
Emmal, F. S., San Francisco.
Hamelin, F. A., San Francisco.
Kearney, P. A., San Francisco.
Nakabayashi, M., San Francisco.
Breyfogle, E. S., San Francisco.
Wrinkle, G. S., San Francisco.
Sullivan, J. F., San Francisco.
Kurozawa, K., San Francisco.
Gouguet, J. L. E., Sisson.
Lewis, C. E., Yreka.
Tebbe, Wm. E., Weed.
Mortensen, W. S., Palms.
Dr. S. L. Kistler, Los Angeles.
Dr. Alexander Jardini, Los Angeles.
Dr. Atticus G. Haygood, Los Angeles.
Dr. E. Henderson, Pomona.
Dr. James R. Cowan, Los Angeles.
Dr. Henry O. Eversole, Los Angeles.
Dr. C. W. Norton, Los Angeles.
Dr. John L. Pomeroy, Monrovia.
Dr. Luis F. Alvarez, Los Angeles.
Dr. Albert J. Scholl, Los Angeles.
Dr. C. A. Wright, Los Angeles.
Dr. A. F. Wagner, Pasadena.
Dr. S. D. Brooks, Los Angeles.
Dr. Leon W. Mansur, Los Angeles.
Dr. J. J. Van Kaathoven, Los Angeles.

DEATHS.

Selzer, Edward, San Francisco.
Ellis, T. E., Elsinore.
Hewetson, John, Riverside.
Witter, G. F., San Jose.
Huckins, J. W., San Francisco.
Poaps, Allen Perry, San Francisco.
Sherman, Carlos C., Colton, Cal.